

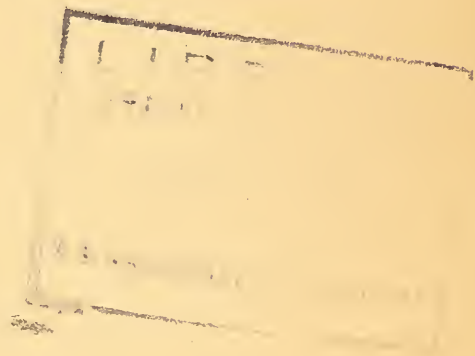
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United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Research Administration
Bureau of Animal Industry

July 21, 1949

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE
CAMPAIGN FOR THE ERADICATION OF
FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE
IN MEXICO
No. 20



Note: This report has been prepared on the basis of the best information available at the time of compilation but is subject to later revision. It covers the principal developments since the issuance of the 19th report of May 12, 1949.

Industry Committee Visits Mexico

The Industry Advisory Committee on Foot-and-Mouth Disease met with the Joint Commission staff in Mexico during the last week of June to observe progress of the Commission's fight against the disease. Eight of the 12-man committee were able to attend along with Dr. B. T. Simms, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry.

After meeting with Lic. Oscar Flores, Director, and Gen. Harry H. Johnson, American co-Director, the committee divided into four groups in order to see as much of the field work as possible. First, second and third vaccinations and the rigid inspection activities were observed at several field points. Vaccine production facilities also were visited, including the new plant at Palo Alto. Here the Mexican government is completing a modern laboratory which is being equipped by the American Section. The plant will produce vaccine and studies will be conducted toward the improvement of the vaccine now in use.

The Committee commended the Commission staff on its work in carrying out the vast program. They recommended that the program be continued as vigorously as possible. Before leaving Mexico, committee members met with President Miguel Aleman and Secretary of Agriculture Nayario Ortiz Garya for discussion and exchange of views on the program.

Members of the committee making the investigations included Albert K. Mitchell, New Mexico, Chairman; Horace Hening, also of New Mexico; E. Ray Cowden, Arizona; Dr. C. U. Duckworth, California; Wayland Hopley, Iowa; Fred Earwood, Texas; W. S. Moscrip, Minnesota; and J. Elmer Brock of Wyoming.

Vaccine Production Delay Now Overcome

Vaccine production was maintained at a high level for June with a total of 3,200,000 doses produced. The cumulative total through July 14 was 20,924,000 doses. Some spot delays occurred in the vaccination program because of vaccine shortage early in July. This difficulty traces back several weeks ago when the Commission encountered some difficulty in obtaining suitable cattle in sufficient quantity from the "clean" area north of the quarantine line for virus production in making the vaccine. While this situation has been corrected for some time, supplies of vaccine in use today were in production six to eight weeks ago. Vaccine is not released until innocuity and other tests are completed. These usually take six to eight weeks.

Two Infection Spots Cleaned Up

During June Commission inspectors discovered two spots of active infection--one each in Michoacan and Guerrero. As a result 103 actively infected animals were slaughtered. Both outbreaks occurred in herds which had been vaccinated only one time. The June slaughter of diseased animals brings the total for the first six months of 1949 to 7,340 head.

Quarantine Lines Unchanged

Quarantine lines have been maintained intact for the past four months. The Commission is not contemplating any changes in the lines in the near future. The present represent natural boundaries in many places where it is easier to control movement of susceptible animals. Some vaccinating has been carried out north of the quarantine line in the vicinity of Ojuelos de Jalisco. In May two animals were found to have the disease at a spot near the northern quarantine boundary. The vaccinating was carried out above the line purely as a precautionary measure.

Map Enclosed of Work Progress

The enclosed map gives an accurate picture of work progress in Mexico through June 20, 1949. During the ensuing weeks the Commission's vaccination and inspection programs have continued at a high level. As of July 13, cumulative totals showed 19,192,669 vaccinations completed. Of this amount 12,365,772 animals had been vaccinated for the first time, 6,307,124 for the second, and 519,773 for the third. During June a total of 3,336,429 animals were vaccinated, with the large bulk showing up as second vaccinations. Vaccination brigades in seven of the nine districts are now concentrating on the second vaccination while the remaining parts of the States of Guerrero and Michoacan are being cleaned up on the first vaccination. The breakdown for June showed 867,327 first vaccinations; 2,215,614 second; and 252,318 third. As previously planned the vaccinations are spaced about four months apart.

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THE FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE SITUATION IN MEXICO

JUNE 20, 1949

BASED ON REPORTS RECEIVED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

